

ABSTRACT

In a system that decompresses data compressed in compliance with the MPEG or JPEG standard, a buffer memory (603) to store values computed during decompression of the compressed data is split to plural banks (BNK); each of the banks is provided with an all-zero flag (AZF) indicating whether data within the bank is all "0"s; when data to be written to a bank is all "0"s, the all-zero flag is set without performing actual writing to the buffer memory; and during data reading, the flag is sensed to see if data within the bank is all "0"s, at which time reading from the buffer memory is omitted.